

Dear all,

Welcome to the first Seafish Wales e-newsletter. This bi-monthly newsletter aims to give you an update on recent Seafish work in Wales, and to highlight any interesting happenings or opportunities that are relevant to the Welsh seafood industry. I'm very keen to hear your feedback, so if you have any comments or suggestions please don't hesitate to let me know.

Legislation update

- A **Fisheries Data Collection group** consisting of Welsh Government, Seafish, the Welsh Fisherman's Association and Bangor University has recently been established in response to the statutory requirements for fisheries data imposed by Common Fisheries Policy reform and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Seafish Wales administers and coordinates this group. The group aims to ensure that statutory fisheries data collection in Wales has as little impact on industry operations as possible, and is currently preparing a briefing note explaining the implications of European Union marine legislation for the Welsh fishing industry, to be circulated in October.

Industry science update

- Seafish has recently facilitated two science projects that demonstrate how the fishing industry **can derive an income** from actively participating in collaborative scientific work, whilst also contributing to research to inform better management.
 1. Seafish part-funded a collaborative Heriot-Watt University project studying **the importance of horse mussel beds to whelks** off the Llŷn Peninsula. Flora Kent, a PhD student from Heriot-Watt has been working with whelk fishermen on the Llŷn to sample whelk numbers at over 50 sites, both on and off horse mussel beds, and has also used underwater cameras to observe how whelk pots attract whelks. The results of this study will be released in due course. To see a video from one of Flora's underwater cameras please follow the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRp9KoUA6mk>. To find out more about Flora's work please feel free to contact her on fk76@hw.ac.uk.
 2. A **Fisherman's Video Survey pilot project** on the Llŷn Peninsula has demonstrated that commercial fishermen can play an active role in seabed habitat surveys using underwater video equipment. A series of collaborative video surveys were successfully carried out from inshore fishing vessels in partnership with staff from Natural Resources Wales, the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC officer and Seafish. The surveys produced high quality seabed footage of 38 sites around the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC whilst building capacity for local fishermen and site officers to undertake further surveys in the future. There is funding available to extend this project to other areas of Wales and trial different methods. **If you are interested in taking part in collaborative surveys**, please contact holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk.
- The **Welsh Water Scallop Strategy** is an industry initiative that aims to secure a long term prosperous and sustainable scallop fishery here in Wales. Over the last two years the scallop industry has engaged in scientific research with Bangor University that aims to inform sustainable management. This research has included assessing the effects of scallop gear modification measures on the environment and fishing efficiency, and improving knowledge and understanding of scallop stocks in Welsh waters. Planned research includes a **scallop fishing intensity trial** in Cardigan Bay to determine what level of fishing intensity is sustainable for the Cardigan Bay SAC area with regards to the scallop stock and the wider ecosystem.
- The planned **scallop fishing intensity trial** has recently been delayed from October 2013 to April 2014. This is because the complexity of the scientific work, and the legal framework under which the experimental fishery must be given exemptions, make it unlikely that final authorisation of the trial can be achieved in time to go ahead this year. For further details of this research and the reasons for delay, please contact the Fisheries and Conservation Science Group, Bangor University at fisheries@bangor.ac.uk. If you want to know more about the Welsh Waters Scallop Strategy or are interested in getting involved, please contact holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk.

Training update

- There has been interest in establishing **Fishing Apprenticeships in Wales**. Potential training providers in Wales are trying to determine how many individuals are interested in receiving this training. If you are interested, or know of anyone who may be interested in undertaking a Fishing Apprenticeship here in Wales, please don't hesitate to contact holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk and I can pass this information on.
- **Fish and Shellfish Industry Skills** – apprenticeships and qualifications for processors, retailers and fish friers in Wales are available for operatives, supervisors and managers. [Cambrian Training](#) in Welshpool are a Seafish recognised centre and are approved providers of both the Level 2 Fish and Shellfish industry skills programme and the Level 3 programme for managers. Apprenticeships are well funded in Wales and provide a cost effective way of training and developing the skills of both existing staff and new entrants. For [more information](#) please email lee.cooper@Seafish.co.uk
- The Seafood Training Academy are looking to establish a **Seafood Training Centre for Wales** based around a number of key training providers and fish & shellfish employers. If you are interested in being involved in this initiative or wish to find out more please email academy@seafish.co.uk.

Promotion update

- A screening of the [Seafish film 'The Business of Fishing'](#) was held on 9th July at Dylan's restaurant in North Wales. The film gave viewers an insight into the challenges and rewards faced by fishing vessel owners. In addition to the film, Professor Mike Kaiser, a marine scientist from the School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University and Seafish Board Member, informed guests of some of the research that the Welsh fishing industry is involved with in collaboration with fisheries scientists, and restaurant owner David Evans gave an insight into the huge appreciation of local, Welsh seafood that he had experienced since opening his business. Approximately 50 people representing a wide range of sectors and interests attended, including the catching sector, catering/food service sector, retail sector, academics, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government Science. Feedback was very positive and another screening of the film is being planned for South Wales later this year. If you are interested in hosting a similar event, please contact holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk.
- Seafish has supported [Cywain Fisheries](#) to produce a **Consumer Guide to Welsh Seafood**, A1 species ID posters and eight Welsh seafood recipes, as part of Cywain Fisheries campaign to promote Welsh seafood. If interested in obtaining copies of these resources to distribute, please contact Caroline Dawson at Cywain Fisheries on 01745 770272 or caroline.dawson@menterabusnes.co.uk.
- A record number of Welsh Fish and Chip shops entered the [Seafish National Fish and Chip awards](#) this year. The competition is now closed and entries are being judged. Best of luck to all Welsh entries!

European funding update

- Seafish Wales has been invited onto the four **Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs)** in Wales, and intends to advise and support FLAG applications for Axis 4 funding that maximise European funding benefits to the local fishing industry.
- Seafish Wales has provided technical assistance to several successful industry-led applications for European funding. These include funding for a project to collect biological information on the Cardigan Bay prawn fishery to inform sustainable management, and funding for personal safety equipment for fishermen.
- If you are interested in **applying for a European Fisheries Fund grant** to assist vessel modification, improve/establish processing facilities, or to support port/harbour improvements please feel free to contact me for technical assistance at holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk.
- Cywain Fisheries has funding available to support the fisheries sector to **add value through developing new products and markets**. The service is available to fishermen, fishmongers and aquaculture businesses in Wales. For further information please call Caroline Dawson (north Wales) on 01745 770272 or Jon Parker (south Wales) on 07841 869893.

Upcoming meetings and events

- Inshore Fisheries Group (IFG) meeting Mid – 24th Sep
- IFG South – 25th Sep
- IFG North – 1st Oct
- Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group (WMFAG) meeting – 23rd Oct
- [Skipper Expo International Bristol](#) – 25th-26th Oct
- Seafish Wales Advisory Committee meeting – Oct/Nov

- The **Seafish Wales Advisory Committee** has been established to provide a forum by which the seafood industry in Wales, through its representatives, can advise on the work of Seafish Wales. If you are interested in becoming an industry representative for your sector, please contact holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk for further details.

If you have any questions or would like any further information about any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me on 07984 561 918 or holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please let me know and I will take your name off the mailing list.

The next Seafish Wales e-newsletter will be released w/c 4th November 2013.

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